Treasury Department

Aug 21st 1855

Sir

Your report upon the terms of apparatus in the employment of fusible alloys of the 1st inst is of so much practical importance to all who use high pressure boilers that the Department has decided to print it for distribution — and the question is where may this be best done.

It can be readily printed here — but it seems to be due to the care you have bestowed on the subject to give you an opportunity of revising the proof sheets.

I therefore return it to you and request you to have it printed at the expense of this Department with all convenient dispatch. Please cause 500 copies to be printed which you send here in convenient packages

Yrs

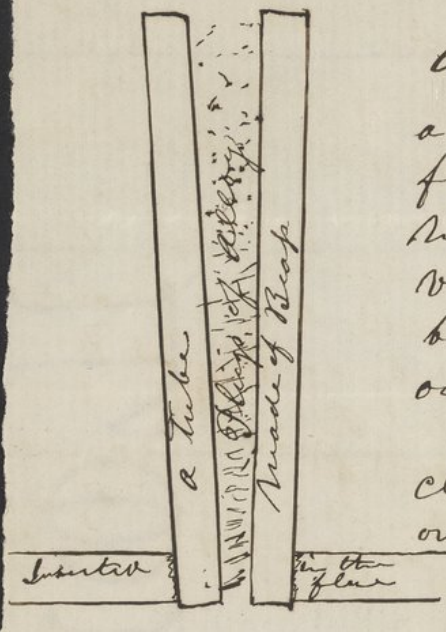
by mail when completed – together with the printers bill duly certified by myself to be correct – which will be remitted accordingly.

The report has been read by Mr Crawford the supervising inspector at Pittsburg who has left the memorandum herewith sent.

Very respectfully
Your obedt Servt

Louis McLane
Secretary of the Treasury

J.C. Baldth Esq
Philadelphia



Alloys have been used in boilers, by screwing a brass tube, from three to four inches long, in the flues, and filling the tube with alloy. This mode of using the alloys has been found to be very objectionable; the softer parts of the alloy being liable to melt out, and its place occupied by sediment from the water.

Will Prof. Booth please designate more clearly in his Report the kind of plugs he would recommend, or whether it is merely a rivet placed in a hole drilled through the flue of the boiler.

1855

aug 21st

Hon Jas Guthrie

Washington

D.C.